THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

VOLUME V, NUMBER 20 DECEMBER, 1951

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

December 20, 1951

My dear friends:

How much I wish I could greet you all at this time and wish you and your families a personal Merry Christmas.

Though I may not see you, I do wish it for you and trust that you may have a bright and happy day together. I sincerely hope that no sadness comes to mar your happiness.

I want to express my personal thanks to you for your cooperation in our work for the sick. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, so whatever your job — whether it be great or small — never forget that it is important and essential to our total task of getting the sick well.

May I add to this word a prayer of Robert Louis Stevenson which seems appropriate because it has such beauty and strength.

A FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth, and our friendly helpers in this foreign isle. . . .

Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. . . . Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another.

WARREN F. COOK,
Executive Director

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CHRISTMAS PARTY TOMORROW

Our annual Christmas party will be held tomorrow afternoon, Friday, December twenty-first from 2:30 to 5:00 P. M. The entertainment will be given in three identical shows in the Cancer Research Institute Auditorium at 2:45, 3:30, and 4:15 P. M. Service Pins will be awarded at 3:30 P. M. Refreshments will be served in the large classroom in Harris Hall. You may obtain your candy from Mr. Chamberlin who will be in the Faculty Library, which is located on the first floor of Harris Hall, also. We hope that each one of you will be present.

SERVICE PIN AWARDS

Tomorrow afternoon at the annual Christmas party service pins will be awarded to the following employees:

Twenty-five Years

Nora M. Webb	Dietary

Twenty Years

Felix Galasti	Maintenance

Fifteen Years

William T. Gibson	Dietary
Marion E. Haskell	Admitting
Margaret C. Mulkern	Housekeeping

Ten Years

Klara M. Hankinson	Nursing
Harold B. Kenton	Blood Bank
Winifred L. McIntosh	Housekeeping
Marjorie E. Pond	Nursing
Lois M. Preston	Nursing
Constance Sellman	Chemistry
Ruth E. Tipping	Nursing

Five Years

Edward R. Brabazon	Nursing
Bernard M. Cahoon	Maintenance
Margaret M. Cox	Administration
Herbert H. Crockford	Housekeeping
Emma C. Denaro	Pathology
Virginia O. Diggdon	Nursing
Muriel J. Emmons	Pathology
Ethel E. Greenfield	Surgery
Ruth A. Honnors	Nursing
Marguerite Kehoe	Cashiers
Helen T. Kenneally	Chemistry
James M. Layne	Dietary
Robert D. Lowry	Administration

THE PULSE

DECEMBER, 1951

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Supervised by the Personnel and
Public Relations Departments

(*Service Pins Continued*)

George Makrokanis	Dietary
Cecelia T. McCann	Housekeeping
Hugh F. McFarland	Maintenance
Dorothy L. Palmer	Surgery
Ruth E. Pendleton	Surgery
John J. Quinn	Pharmacy
Jesse Rosa	Surgery
Ada M. Ryan	Solution Room
Frederick G. Shaw	Dietary
Edith Shea	Dietary
Michael J. Smith	Purchasing
Charles K. Spalding	Radium
Mary E. Summers	Housekeeping
Lois M. Thomas	Nursing
Arnold O. Tompkins	Laundry
Margaret T. Wattley	Dietary
Henry G. Webster	Laundry
Pamela A. Whitney	Volunteers

CHRISTMAS DINNER

All employees are cordially invited to have Christmas dinner at the Harris Hall Cafeteria between 11:15 A. M. and 1:15 P. M. You may bring guests to dinner at the cost of $2 per person. Please let your department head know by five o'clock tonight if you would like a dinner ticket for yourself or your guests.

RED STOCKINGS

The little Red Stockings, which are used by our friends for their Christmas contribution to the hospital, have been a tradition at the Deaconess for the past twenty-two years. They can be found on the tables in all lobbies.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Question: Why aren't all pieces of the steel frame painted?

Answer: The horizontal beams are part of the floor and roof systems and will be completely encased in concrete, therefore requiring no paint or added rust preservative. The vertical columns are to be fireproofed with brickwork and will be given a second coat of paint or mastic after the welding is completed.

Question: Why are the columns not completely covered with paint?

Answer: Where welding occurs at the columns the paint is omitted in order to leave a clean contact surface for the welds and to prevent injury from the toxic fumes which would be caused from burning red lead paint.

Question: Do the steel erectors wear special shoes to assist them in their work?

Answer: No. Extreme care, perfect coordination in all actions and an inner substance from which violin strings are made are their principal assets.

Question: What are the next construction procedures after the steel frame is completed?

Answer: The forming and pouring of the concrete floor and roof slabs and the setting of the limestone base courses on the various elevations.

STEEL CONSTRUCTION, NOVEMBER 27, 1951
Photo by J. Coyne

DR. CHARLES C. LUND

Dr. Charles C. Lund recently was elected president of the American Cancer Society at the annual meeting held in New York City. Dr. Lund is a member of the New England Deaconess Hospital surgical staff, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Harvard Medical School, and surgeon-in-chief at the Boston City Hospital.

SADIE A. HAGEN MEMORIAL

On November 20, 1951 a memorial service was held to dedicate the reception room and a plaque to the late Sadie A. Hagen at the Cancer Research Institute. Miss Hagen gave more than forty years' devoted service to the New England Deaconess Hospital. The plaque was a gift from the Friends of the Deaconess, as were the furnishings of the room.

The speakers at the service were Dr. F. Gorham Brigham, as her physician, Dr. William R. Leslie of St. Mark's Methodist Church, Brookline, as her pastor, Mrs. Sheldon E. Wardwell, president of the Friends of the Deaconess, Dr. Emory S. Bucke, editor of *Zions Herald,* and Dr. Warren F. Cook, Executive Director of the hospital, as presiding officer.

RED FEATHER CAMPAIGN

Mr. Milton B. Nelson, chairman of the 1952 Red Feather Campaign at the New England Deaconess reports that the total cash and pledges were $4,045.86. This amount exceeded the gifts of last year by $442.86. So — it's thanks to all who assisted him as well as to everyone who supported the campaign.

REMINDER TO NEW EMPLOYEES

Employees who started work after September 20, 1951 are eligible to join Blue Cross and Blue Shield through our group. If you have not already enrolled, and wish to do so, please come to the Personnel Office not later than tomorrow, December 21st.

MORE ON CEREBRAL PALSY AWARD TO DEACONESS PATHOLOGIST

Based on excerpts from an article in *The Boston Herald* by W. E. Playfair, feature writer.

A Boston pathologist recently indicated that the probable cause of the mysterious cerebral palsy was damage to the unborn child "somewhere along the assembly line from the egg to birth."

On November 3, 1951, Dr. Samuel P. Hicks of the New England Deaconess Hospital, Pondville State Cancer Hospital, and Harvard Medical School was given the first annual Max Weinstein $1,000 Award for his experimental research in Cerebral Palsy, concerning the mechanisms of malformations in the developing nervous system. Dr. Hicks' experiments carried out at the above three institutions with rats and mice, showed that developing nerve cells are the most sensitive in the body to destruction by ionizing radiations, and to certain chemical enzyme inhibitors that inhibit protein synthesis. He also showed that the character of the malformation is determined largely by the time during gestation or immediately after birth that the injury occurs. The work gives new impetus to a search for causes of cerebral palsy that may be active during gestation, in contrast to those that may be genetic or associated with the birth process.

The result of these findings, Dr. Sidney Farber, Children's Hospital, Boston, chairman of the research council of the National Cerebral Palsy group, said, would be "to stimulate research on the human being for agents which might cause such injury to the fetus during pregnancy."

Hitherto, while most of the causes of the disease have remained a mystery, causes assigned have included unavoidable injuries at birth, damage to the brain or spinal cord of the premature infant, injuries associated with the Rh blood factor, and many diseases, including German measles and mumps, as well as fungus and parasitic diseases which may cause harm to the brain of the child during gestation.

"These research findings," Dr. Farber said, "should do a great deal to dispel the mystery surrounding this disease by explaining the damage to the brain and spinal column that causes it. They are also of fundamental value because they give us a precise tool for investigation."

The work was a development of the general program at the New England Deaconess Cancer Research Institute to study problems of abnormal growth as they relate to malformations, radiation, and cancer. It illustrates how basic studies may help to solve diversified seemingly unrelated medical problems.

Left to right; Dr. Sidney Farber, Mrs. Goldenson, Dr. Samuel P. Hicks, and Mr. Goldenson, President, United Cerebral Palsy Association. Mrs. Goldenson is the daughter of Max Weinstein.

There are some 500,000 children with cerebral palsy in this country, and, when the term is broadened to include all damage to the brain and spinal column and the consequences thereof, some 4,500,000 others.

Dr. Hicks was moved to start his research by the case of a 14-year-old microcephalic (small-headed) girl in a state institution, whose mother had been treated with X-ray for cancer while carrying the child. He saw a connection between the child's cerebral palsy and the radiation treatments, and began to work out the idea with animals. He was able to construct a real "time table" of brain damage in these subjects.

For the first eight days of gestation in rats and mice the brain is resistant to radiation and few changes occur. But at the ninth day radiation produces striking malformations, so severe that the animals do not survive after birth.

On the tenth day radiation causes less external malformation and is limited to the microscopic "building blocks" of the brain, making of these a "mess." All fetuses, without exception, are damaged, and there is a distinct pattern of damage according to the time radiation is applied.

At one stage, for example, radiation would result in an animal being born without properly formed front feet. And depending on the time of treatment, there has been a variety of skeletal malformations.

Asked whether it would be dangerous to have X-ray pictures taken of a pregnant woman, Dr. Hicks said the small amount of radiation required for this would be "absolutely harmless." But the physician would not care to give such a person large therapeutic doses of radiation for any condition unless necessary to save life.

In humans radiation is an extremely rare cause of cerebral palsy. The cause of most cases is still unknown but attention to factors that may operate during pregnancy promises a fruitful field for investigation.

BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

December 11, 1951

Team		*Total Pinfall*	*Points*
9	Dr. Young	17378	38
6	Mr. Chamberlin	17024	28
2	Mr. Marotta	17024	26
3	Mr. Sabine	17196	25
8	Mr. Lowry	17027	25
4	Mr. Emery	16749	25
1	Dr. Cook	16051	25
7	Miss Nelson	16643	17
5	Mr. Makrokanis	15442	17
10	Mr. Pearson	16496	12

COMPARATIVE FOOD COSTS

Such interest was expressed in the food costs shown in the March issue of THE PULSE that another chart is being presented to show comparative costs of wholesale buying:

Item	*December* 1950	*December* 1951
Bread	26c loaf	26c loaf
Butter	72c lb.	80c lb.
Coffee	77c lb.	80c lb.
Eggs	63c doz.	68c doz.
Milk	$1.56, 8 qts.	$1.68, 8 qts.
Cream	$4.61, 8 qts.	$5.25, 8 qts.
Chicken	38c lb.	40c lb.
Frankforts	52c lb.	59c lb.
Bacon	53c lb.	56c lb.
Veal	68c lb.	72c lb.

AWARD TO DR. ELLIOTT P. JOSLIN

Dr. Elliott P. Joslin was presented recently with the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club of Boston at a luncheon held at the Hotel Touraine. The presentation was made by Mr. Gerald J. Donovan, club president.

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REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE DEACONESS

We have had a busy fall. Our Annual Meeting was in October — the first meeting of the Friends of the Deaconess held in the new Elliott P. Joslin Auditorium of the Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Joslin was our guest speaker.

At that meeting, Mrs. Sheldon E. Wardwell was elected President. She succeeds the late Mrs. Alexander G. Grant, who was a founder of the Friends of the Deaconess and President for the past seventeen years. Mrs. Grant died last July — her loss is very great.

We voted to raise $5,000 by projects and personal contributions, to create one-half of an undergraduate nursing scholarship fund in memory of Mrs. Grant; the other half is being raised by her friends outside the hospital.

In addition to the Grant Scholarship, we also support four other scholarships for nurses. As our hospital grows, these become more important. Miss Olive L. Nelson, Director of Nursing, says at least one-third of the girls need financial assistance in some form.

We attempt to raise this money by memberships, gifts, rummage sales, a Thrift Shop, a Pop Concert, and food sales. The Rummage Sale was held in the Brookline Town Hall in November, and our Thrift Shop is in full swing. We recently had a food sale, and hope we made enough money to pay for Christmas decorations for the patients.

Recently we contributed toward the purchase of a two-million-volt rotary type X-ray therapy machine for the treatment of cancer patients.

Our Surgical Dressings Group meets every Wednesday morning under the able Chairmanship of Miss Mabel Marsh, and we are pleased that the attendance is increasing.

We want to express our gratitude to the many "Societies of Christian Service," and the individual women of the Methodist church who have become our "Friends" and have sent contributions to help us in our work.

We will keep you informed from time to time through THE PULSE of our activities and hope that some of you who live near may wish to participate in them.

HELEN G. WARDWELL

Left to right; Dr. Priscilla White, Gerald J. Donovan, Dr. Joslin, and Verdie A. Dodds.
Photo by the Boston Herald

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Engagements

Miss Elaine A. Bell, '51 Jr., to Mr. Frederick W. Nystrom of West Chelmsford. Mr. Nystrom is a graduate of Lowell Textile Institute, and is employed by the U. S. Rubber Company, New York City.

Miss Janice M. Golart, '52 Sr., to Lt. K. Dale Burdett of Albion, New York. Lt. Burdett, a pilot, is stationed near Tokyo, Japan, with the Far East Air Force.

Miss Florence A. Munson, Medical Secretary, Pathology, to Mr. Richard G. Williamson of Augusta, Maine. Mr. Williamson, a graduate of Holy Cross College and Boston University Law School, is employed at the First National Bank in Boston.

Weddings

Miss Carola A. Anderson, '48 Jr., to Mr. Patterson Chaffin of Boston on September 8, 1951 at the Covenant Congregational Church, Forest Hills. Mrs. Chaffin is an Assistant Night Supervisor and her husband is attending Boston University.

Miss Wilma C. Henderson, '51 Sr., to Mr. Erving S. Westcott on November 11, 1951 at the Immanuel Church in Brattleboro, Vermont. Mr. Westcott is a graduate of Wentworth Institute and is employed by the General Electric Company in Pittsfield. The couple will live at 48 Housatonic Street, Pittsfield.

Miss Roberta M. Murdoch, '48 Jr., to Mr. Everett F. Carr on December 15, 1951 at the First Methodist Church, Everett. Mr. Carr is employed by the Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. He and his wife will live in East Peabody when their new home is completed.

Miss Shirley E. Patterson, Laboratory Technician, Chemistry, to Mr. Warren Joy on November 10, 1951 at the First Methodist Church, Amesbury. Mr. and Mrs. Joy will live in Boston, where Mr. Joy is employed at the General Electric Company.

Births

A son, Ross Allen, to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford R. Atwood at Wernersville, Pennsylvania on November 12, 1951. Mrs. Atwood was a former dietitian.

A son, Jeffrey Denis, to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Milen on November 29, 1951. Mrs. Milen was formerly Dorothy Faulkner of the Solution Room. Mr. and Mrs. Milen live at 58 Grover Street, Milford.

Deaths

Mrs. Catherine A. Bonner on October 21, 1951, wife of John Bonner, Assistant Chief Engineer.

Mrs. Florence Greer on December 11, 1951, sister of Jessie and Agnes Kennedy, Switchboard Operators.

Mr. Fred A. Hooper on November 28, 1951, father of Mrs. Kathryn H. Haley, Head Technician, Pathology and Cancer Research Institute.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

With your pay check today is a form to fill out for the Personnel Office, noting any changes in address, telephone number, name of person to notify in case of emergency, marital status, and so forth. This information is important in case you are needed in an emergency. Please return these forms to the Personnel Office.